



USCIS CHILD CITIZENSHIP ACT PROGRAM *FACTS*

JANUARY 2004

Child Citizenship Act Information

The Child Citizenship Act (CCA, P.L. 106-395) became effective on February 27, 2001. The law amended Section 320 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and among other things, provided for the automatic citizenship for certain children upon entry to the U.S. or upon adjustment of status. At the time of implementation, USCIS issued policy memoranda and published an interim regulation in the Federal Register. USCIS is reengineering its processes in order to streamline the production of Certificates of Citizenship for certain adopted children.

USCIS CCA Program Overview

USCIS CCA Program implementation is occurring in two phases—interim and long term—in order to meet all program goals. The Buffalo District Office is the location for the interim streamlining project. Buffalo personnel began in November 2003 by eliminating a majority of the N-643 backlog and will continue by processing newly entering IR-3 visa holders beginning January 20, 2004. The interim solution is anticipated to continue for one to four years.

USCIS has considered a long-term solution to address new IR-3 entrants, but will wait to gain benefits from the interim implementation before determining the final solution.

Once the new IR-3 entrant program is established, the USCIS will expand the program to address other Immediate Relative visa cases so that additional children benefit from the CCA changes. Key elements to be addressed include development of a streamlined procedure for IR-3 children who have already been admitted to the U.S., but have not yet filed Form N-643 or N-600 for evidence of citizenship and families

who fall within other visa categories (e.g., IR-4 and IR-7).

New Entrant Program

The new IR-3 entrant program, which will be effective January 20, 2004, focuses on newly entering orphans with full and final adoptions abroad (IR-3) who qualify for automatic citizenship under INA Section 320. Under the new program, these children automatically receive Certificates of Citizenship instead of Permanent Resident Cards (PRC). The goal of the new IR-3 entrant program goal is to provide the Certificates to families within 45 days of entry into the U.S.

The IR-3 new entrant program streamlines the process by instituting a central location for adjudication of new IR-3 entrant IV packets. As with the backlog elimination effort, this program will be centrally located at the Buffalo District Office with assistance from the California and Texas Service Centers and Ports of Entry.

N-643 Backlog Elimination Program

Beginning in November 2003, USCIS began eliminating the N-643 backlog through a centralized effort at the Buffalo District Office.

CCA Program Information Resources

For general information about the CCA and USCIS program please visit uscis.gov. Specific questions about the program should be forwarded Lori Pietropaoli or Rosalina Lacot in the USCIS Business Process Reengineering Office.

USCIS customers with questions about the CCA and USCIS programs should contact the National Customer Service Center (NCSC) at 1-800-375-5283.

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